

# The District 3 Slate

May 1999

County Supervisor Pam Slater

"We're asking you. We all agree we have (these problems). How can we now solve them?"

-- Supervisor Pam Slater



County Supervisor  
**Pam Slater**

Dear Friends:

We have significant challenges ahead of us in San Diego County.

We must preserve our quality of life while preparing for the population growth expected within the next 20 years. We must improve our public transportation. We must protect our wetlands and open spaces. We must continue to promote jobs and economic growth.

These challenges call to mind a quote from a French official in the 1800s who said, "I've got to follow them. I'm their leader."

As your elected representative for the Third District of San Diego County, I will be making critical decisions in the future on your behalf, ones that affect growth, transportation and public safety. Your opinions are vital.

So, I encourage you to take part in community meetings, to write your elected officials and make your views known.

*Pam Slater*

## Slater offers relief for I-15, I-5 headaches

*Freeways will get \$77.6 million as local officials tackle traffic congestion*

There's good news for commuters who brave the notorious gridlock on Interstates 15 and 5.

A regional transportation panel has approved County Supervisor Pam Slater's proposal to direct more than \$77 million toward improving both freeways.

"People who drive I-15 want something done *now* to ease the traffic jams," said Slater, who represents many communities along the freeway. "These funds were our quickest option to get something done immediately. I-5 will also receive \$1.3 million for continued work at the merge."

Slater worked closely with other elected officials on the proposal.

This recommendation will use \$76.3 million in federal funds to help pay for carpool lanes on I-15 from State Route 56 to Lake Hodges.

The board for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) in late April approved Slater's plan.

Under the I-15 plan, the money would be used to build two to three car-pool lanes in the center of the freeway. The lanes would have movable concrete barriers that can be shifted from



Photo by Bill Polick

**The rush begins:** Looking down on Interstate 15 from the Miramar Way overpass, morning traffic begins to back up once again during a commute.

side to side to adjust for northbound or southbound traffic.

Interstate 5 will receive \$1.3 million to complete the construction of an HOV lane.

Slater said it was wisest to concentrate the federal funds on

the county's most urgent needs

"If we spread these limited, one-time funds around to every little project that needs money, we're going to have a piece-meal approach to solving our traffic problems. That won't work."

## Guardian Angels to meet our seniors' down-to-earth needs

San Diego's seniors will soon get help from some very down-to-earth angels.

Under a plan brought forward by Supervisors Pam Slater and Dianne Jacob, county staff will work with various senior agencies to connect "Guardian Angel" community volunteers with elderly residents of nursing homes.

"Our goal is simple. We want to connect caring volunteers with nursing home residents who need companionship," Slater said.

In a recent survey, 96 percent of the people who responded felt that loneliness is a critical problem for our elderly population. The 1998 Aging Summit highlighted volunteers as a solution.

### The staff of Supervisor Pam Slater

John Weil, Chief of Staff

Trish Boaz (Land Use); Robert Duckett (Criminal Justice);  
Jim Gonsalves (Housing); Blair Hoppe (Health and Social Services);  
Ron Kelley (Budget & Finances); Anne-Marie Jewel (Scheduling)

Frances Porter (Receptionist)

Contact us at 531-5533 or write us at:

1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA. 92101

# Smart Growth Coalition talks start with the right attitude

San Diego's growing pains are becoming evident.

With the region's population expected to grow by more than 1 million people in the next 20 years, county leaders want to ensure that future growing pains remain under control.

That will take regional, long-term planning, stressed Supervisors Pam Slater and Ron Roberts last month, as they kicked off the first meeting of the "Smart Growth Coalition."

"Instead of a top-down approach where the elected officials come in and say this is what we're doing, this is a citizens-up approach,"

Slater said. "We're asking you. We have these problems, we all agree we have them. How can we now solve them to the benefit of everyone who lives here and, more importantly, all the people who are to come?"

The conference brought together more than 200 leaders from the environmental, planning, real estate, rental and business communities.

Attendees signed up for several subcommittees, which will

meet and report their findings back at the second Smart Growth Conference, scheduled for July.

"I'm asking the environmentalists, I'm asking the building industry, I'm asking the various job providers in out county to all come together and say, this is an issue for all of us," Slater said.

"We need to work cohesively and not see each one as a special interest group lobbying just for its opinion."

**"It takes the cooperation of everyone. But it's possible."**

-- Supervisor  
Pam Slater

Agencies and groups represented at the March conference included the City of San Diego, the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the Sierra Club of San Diego, the Building Industry Association, the Environmental Health Coalition and CalTrans.

When the subcommittees report back to the county Board of Supervisors with their findings in July, the Mayors and Planning Directors of the county's 18 cities will have an opportunity to review the findings.

"It takes the cooperation of everyone. But it's possible," Slater said. "Hopefully, everyone will realize it's smart as well."



Photo by Bill Polick

**Express Flight:** An American West Express commuter plane taxis into position at McClellan-Palomar airport in Carlsbad. The airport is one of eight operated by the County of San Diego and is the County's busiest.

## Regional Airport Authority takes wing as officials meet

The airport issue in San Diego has been studied like no other. But there's a new wrinkle that might make a difference.

Led by Pam Slater, chairwoman of the county Board of Supervisors, officials from four regional airport agencies met this month to discuss a regional approach to planning San Diego's longterm airport needs.

"If San Diego is to be a world-class region that competes in the international and national markets, we must increase capacity at our airports," Slater said.

The four agencies are the

County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, the San Diego Port District and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). All have an interest in a regional airport authority.

The authority will review the region's airports and see how they can complement each other; determine the region's long-term passenger and cargo needs; and see if those needs warrant a new international airport.

Likely, the authority will be formed in several months after the Port District has completed work on other issues.

County Supervisor Pam Slater  
District Three  
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San Diego, CA. 92101